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MAY 31, 2005

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**DeNUCCI ANNOUNCES HOMELAND SECURITY  
AUDIT INITIATIVES**

State Auditor Joe DeNucci announced today he has initiated a series of homeland security audits to determine whether Massachusetts is using federal and state homeland security funds efficiently and effectively.

“Massachusetts state government has no greater responsibility than to protect the safety of its citizens,” said DeNucci. “Since the 9/11 attacks, the federal government has awarded more than \$374 million in grants and direct allocations to our state and its municipalities, mostly through public safety and public health programs. It’s critically important that we ensure that homeland security funds are spent legally, wisely and for the purposes intended.”

The first phase of DeNucci’s initiative consists of an analysis, issued today, of the amounts and categories of federal funds which Massachusetts agencies have received. This review will be followed by specific audits of funding received by the Executive Office of Public Safety, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Public Health, and major state authorities.

With the federal government awarding billions of dollars to state and local governments since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, DeNucci’s audit initiative will assess whether federal homeland security grants are being spent in ways that significantly enhance the safety of the citizens and infrastructure of Massachusetts.

DeNucci said other states have experienced problems with homeland security expenditures, including a lack of adequate processes for grant funds allocated to local communities, slow spending of funds, abuse and misuse of funds related to unnecessary equipment purchases, and a lack of communication between the federal granting agencies and state and local agencies.